

# the book of **EPHESIANS**

LIFE IN CHRIST

## TALK IT OVER

### KEY SCRIPTURES

<sup>4</sup>But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup>that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) <sup>6</sup>For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup>Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

**Ephesians 2:4-10**

<sup>13-14</sup>God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much, the Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating.

**Colossians 1:13-14 (MSG)**

<sup>14</sup>For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <sup>15</sup>He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.

<sup>16</sup>Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

**Ephesians 2:14-16**

Select 1 or 2 questions from each section of this guide to lead your group or house church in a discussion. Feel free to adjust as needed. Each section is designed to follow each video segment of the message.

- **Video Section #1: Explore the Topic**
  - > Start it Out | Goal: Get people talking
- **Video Section #2: Explore what God says about the Topic**
  - > Talk it Out | Goal: Get the group talking about scripture
- **Video Section #3: Explore what we do with the Topic**
  - > Live it Out | Goal: Choose a question to encourage next steps
  - > Pray it Out | Goal: Lift of prayers, petitions, and praises

### Start it Out | Goal: Get people talking

- Why was it so important to rescue 33 miners trapped 2,300 ft. below the earth's surface?
- In your own words, how would you describe the idea of trapped miners being a Picture of Salvation?
- Do you have an example of working with people different from you to accomplish a common goal? If so, explain what that was like.

### Talk it Out | Goal: Get the group talking about scripture

- We learned that Paul is writing this letter from a Roman prison, in your opinion what was so important in **Ephesians 2:1-10** that was worth all the effort?
- Read **Ephesians 2:5, and 2:8**; What does Paul mean when he says, "It is only by God's grace that you have been saved."?
- Read **Ephesians 2:14-16**; What are the implications of this scripture to our current cultural context and climate? How can diversity in the church be an advantage? Is it important for the church to be diverse?

### Live it Out | Goal: Choose a question to encourage next steps

- What can you do this week to be a bridge of reconciliation between two groups of people who are so different?
- How can God use you to "display His wisdom" to the world around you?

### Pray it Out | Goal: Lift up prayers, petitions, and praises

- How can we pray for you this week?
- Take time to share prayer requests, and spend time praying for our church, community, country, and world. Help the members of your group to feel invited and cared for.